

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

The special session of Congress has just closed. There has been a tendency to criticize Congress for not accomplishing anything, and it is possible that some time was wasted in a senseless political wrangle over the Newberry case. But we should remember that never before in the history of our country has a Congress had so many great questions to settle, and matters of such vital importance for consideration. The reconstruction of our entire war-torn system has been their problem.

It is well for us to consider what was actually accomplished and then consider whether it would not be more American to commend than to criticize our servants who are trying hard to bring order out of the chaos of war.

One hundred and thirty-six laws were enacted in the six months of the first session, and scores of others are pending in various stages of legislation, ready to be taken up when the second session convenes on December 5th. The more important bills enacted into law are as follows: internal revenue act, budget act, emergency tariff extension act, peace resolution, Veterans' Bureau act, immigration act, antilabor act, \$25,000,000 farm loan act, navy and army appropriation acts, grain futures act, packers' control act, war finance agricultural loan act, \$75,000,000 State highways aid act, maternity act, Shipping Board act, export aid act, cable control act, Indian Bureau act.

Federal Administration—The Budget act, providing for a more businesslike manner of handling the taxpayers' money. The Sweet Act establishing the Veterans' Bureau by which affairs of ex-soldiers have been centralized and delays minimized. The bill appropriating \$48,000,000 to continue the work of the Shipping Board, bankrupted by the previous Administration. Readjustment of compensation of postal employees. The Immigration Restriction Bill for curtailing European immigration. The Maternity Bill. The Volstead anti-medicinal beer bill. The army and navy appropriation bills carried over from previous session, and the deficiency appropriation bill.

Industry—The bill amending the War Finance Corporation Act to provide relief for producers of agricultural products and authorizing the War Finance Corporation to utilize one billion dollars of its securities to aid in export of those products and to breed, raise, fatten and market livestock. The Packers' Bill to regulate interstate and foreign commerce in livestock, dairy products, etc. The bill penalizing purely speculative operations in grain futures. The bill providing for an additional deposit of \$25,000,000 thus increasing working capital of the Farm Loan Board to \$50,000,000. The amendment to the Edge bill encouraging export trade. The bill providing for a consolidation of independent telephone companies, thereby eliminating losses incident to unwise duplication. The bill authorizing the President to provide for the orderly and controlled landing of submarine cables. Amendment of the Federal Road Aid Act by the Federal Highway Act, centralizing authority in the states and insuring road upkeep. The Emergency Tariff Bill extended to such time as the general tariff bill, now pending, passes.

Rehabilitation—The Peace Resolutions creating official peace with Germany and Austria. The Tax Revision reducing the tax burdens \$7,000,000 this year and an estimated \$835,000,000 for 1922. Relief of those who had responded to the call of the Government for the production of war materials, and who were subjected to losses by the sudden termination of the war.

Miscellaneous—Bill providing for an agreement among the Western States for the disposition and apportionment of the waters of the Colorado river. Bill limiting indebtedness of the Philippine Islands. Bill providing punishment for handling personal property on contract of sale with intent to defraud. Bill amending revised statutes relating to criminal cases. Bill extending relief to cotton states through efforts to eradicate pink boll worm.

A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

The first trial in the Fatty Arbuckle case has resulted in a disagreement of the jury and the newspaper reports say it was a great blow to Fatty, his wife, and his mother-in-law, who were looking for it, and it came without a thrill.

The newspaper reports say that "Fatty nonchalantly rolled a brown cigarette, waited until the judge had said it would be impossible to try him again before Jan. 9th, and the opposition had agreed to the date, then lit his cigarette and got up." How glad the people are to get these minute details. It would be really too bad to rob the public of the thrill such news affords. How fortunate it was that Fatty chose a brown cigarette. A pink one or a green one would have been entirely out of harmony on that occasion and might have spilled the beans, so to speak. And how thoughtful and considerate it was of Fatty to wait and not blow smoke in the judge's face until the judge had told him about the next performance.

Fatty is reported to have announced that he had a perfectly clear conscience. You know that a man is always to be congratulated when he has a clear conscience, and Fatty is indeed to be congratulated if his is clear. Or perhaps he has a very novel conscience which clears up automatically, as it were, with very little consideration for truth, right, justice or decency. That kind of a conscience is getting to be a convenience altogether too common in this country for the public good.

It is important to note that August Fritz, foreman of the jury, is out with a signed statement telling how the jury stood and laboring the one woman who stood out for conviction. This is a very unusual proceeding, but we presume that it is a matter of a clear conscience with no intent to influence those who may be jurors in the next trial.

It is also announced that an attempt was made to kill the star witness of the defense by feeding her poisoned candy. Fortunately she revived and survived the attempt upon her life and is able with a perfectly clear conscience to announce that she met a strange man, he asked her to go walking, she confidently did, and the brute fed her poisoned candy apparently with a perfectly clear conscience.

Isn't a conscience a funny thing anyhow?

Where Your Taxes Go

How Uncle Sam Spends Your Money in Conducting Your Business

By EDWARD G. LOWRY

Author "Washington Close-Ups," "Banks and Financial Systems," etc. Contributor Political and Economic Articles to Leading Periodicals and a Writer of Recognized Authority on the National Government's Business Methods.

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II.

UNCLE SAM AS EMPLOYER

The United States government is the largest single employer of men and women in this country. At the present time in the executive civil service of the Federal government, and exclusive of the army and navy, there are employed approximately 650,000 workers, or one in 73 of all residents on American soil, ten years of age or over, engaged in gainful occupations. A little while ago, when the number of federal employees was even larger than it is now, one person out of every 68 in the United States who had any sort of a job at all was working for the government. These calculations are based on recent estimates of the bureau of the census in anticipation of the results of the fourteenth general census.

Prior to the outbreak of the war, in 1914, the number of men and women in civil positions in the executive service was approximately 385,000. In 1916 it had grown to 398,832. In 1917, after our entry into the war, it was 459,798. On June 30, 1919, the number was 707,448. The number on July 31, 1920, was 691,116.

These figures are confessedly approximations. Since the signing of the armistice the number of federal employees has been decreasing. Undoubtedly the decrease in force will continue to be made for months to come, but the growth of the government business in the past few years has been such as to make it a larger employer in the post-war period than it had ever been in the pre-war period.

These thousands of men and women working for the government comprise every type of ability and intelligence. Their duties cover a range of activities that far exceeds that exercised for other public or private employers; for, besides its task of lawmaking and law enforcing, of national defense and national finance, the government is charged with promoting the health and welfare of its people, of promoting their home interests, their agricultural, mining, manufacturing, shipping, fishing and transportation interests.

To do this it must investigate, control and eradicate diseases that attack persons, plants and animals. It must inspect livestock, foods and drugs. It must study conditions and progress in education, labor and commerce. It must prevent individual men or groups of men from using unfair business methods, whether in banking, transportation, trade or manufacture.

The government must administer public lands and the affairs of the Indians, and educate children in Alaska. It grants patents of invention, it sets the clocks of the country, forecasts the weather, and makes observations of the stars and heavenly bodies. It constructs buildings, docks, roads, bridges, irrigation works, builds canals and aeroplanes, makes ordnance and ammunition, clothing and other supplies for its soldiers and sailors. It makes all its own money and does all its own printing. It distributes all mail and many packages. The government does everything that any employer in the United States does, in addition to a great many things that no other employer does. How does it treat its people? Is it a good employer or a bad employer? Are its employees contented? These are questions that I should advise the railroad men, the miners and other workers who seek nationalization of industry, to look into before they commit themselves.

Let them find out for themselves what government ownership would mean to them.

The first thing they will discover, as I discovered when I began the present inquiry, is that nobody knows, and nobody in the government service is charged with knowing, the exact number of employees in the service from day to day. Even more astounding, nobody knows, or is charged with knowing, even approximately, the sum of the payroll of the United States.

It is not possible to find out within hundreds of thousands of dollars how much the United States pays yearly or monthly in salaries and wages. I went to the Treasury department, to the appropriations committee of congress, and elsewhere where I thought the information might be lodged, but nobody knew. I was told vaguely that the government was not run on an asset and liability basis, and therefore it was not necessary to know the exact number of employees on the payroll.

If the average compensation is \$1,100, the federal civil service payroll now amounts to more than seven hundred million dollars annually. The largest single branch is the Post Office department, with nearly 300,000 employees. The War department has more than 125,000 civilian employees, the Navy department about 90,000, and the Treasury department about 60,000. No other branch has as many as 25,000 employees. Any institution that employs one in seventy-three of all this country's workers and calls for the expenditure of such a large part of our annual revenues is entitled to our serious consideration. You and you alone put up the money.

Wise Observation.

Jud Tunkins says a man who travels for pleasure these days has got to be somebody who doesn't care about expenses.

Read the Last Page.

With Our State Contemporaries

THE PROHIBITION PARTY QUILTS

From Chicago headquarters it is officially announced that the "Prohibition Party"—as a separate political entity—proposes to go out of business; and that, hereafter, the support of partisans "Prohibitionists" will be thrown to whichever of the major political parties is most dependable "dry."

This is common sense. Furthermore, it would have been just as sound common sense any other year from the time the "Prohibition Party" first concentrated its political zealotry into a political group.

There never had been a moment since 1884, when the "Prohibition Party" first appeared upon national ballots, when "Prohibitionists" could not have worked for their cause more effectively as "Republicans" or "Democrats." Why? Because there never has been a moment when the "Prohibition Party" stood a ghost of a show of electing its own ticket. (The most votes it ever polled was 264,133 in 1892—or about 2 per cent of the total.) Therefore when Prohibitionists supported their own "Party" they not only threw their own votes away but also let themselves outside the breastworks of the "Party" that won.

We are not imposing the fine sense of principle which galvanized this perennial and almost indistinguishable minority into a "Lost Battalion"; we are discussing solely a problem in practical political usefulness. Suppose, for example, in 1884 a very real advantage for the anti-liquor cause would have resulted from election of Blaine as President instead of Cleveland. Blaine was defeated because he lost New York by 1,149 votes. The "Prohibition Party" candidate for President polled 25,006 New York votes. If for the sake of the argument it be admitted that Blaine was "drier" than Cleveland, must it not also then be admitted that the "Prohibition Party" (by diverting futile votes from Blaine) did its own cause more harm than good?

If there is one political axiom sounder than another, it is that special causes gain nothing by attempting to promote themselves through special political parties. National Prohibition was not finally procured through the "Prohibition Party." It was procured through the action of Republicans and Democrats in the National Congress and in the various State Legislatures. Out of some five thousand National and State Legislators who, at one time and another, had to vote on the Eighteenth Amendment, we doubt whether a dozen were elected by the "Prohibition Party." The point is so utterly obvious that it would be scarcely worth the emphasis we give it for the fact that other groups of "special pleaders" for special causes constantly are proposing to erect themselves into separate political parties. This present analysis is addressed to them. The whole problem of the whole Government of the United States is too complex and too far-reaching ever to permit proper or successful selection of governing authorities on the basis of any single, isolated issue—least of all a summary issue.

So far as "Prohibitionists" are concerned, if there was ever a time when their power and fidelity to principle needed expression it is now, in these days of loose law enforcement and law evasion. Hence, when they choose this particular era to go out of business as a "Party" they virtually consent to the Herald's whole argument against "special parties." On the other hand, they choose a most important and critical time to change method and make their authority and weight best felt—namely, through whichever of the dominant Parties best merits their support.—Grand Rapids Herald.

MORE INTELLIGENT VOTERS

New York state took quite significant action at its recent election, in voting for a constitutional amendment requiring that new voters must be able to read and write the English language. The states that have made this requirement believe they have secured good results from it. It works as an incentive to an illiterate man, to get the fundamentals of education and provide them for his children.

In states having no such tests, many politicians have feared to advocate such a proposition, feeling it would make them unpopular with illiterate elements. But the fact that this amendment got its best support right in the city of New York, where the illiterate vote is very heavy, suggests that even in the alien centers such a proposition would be popular. The people who do not understand the big and little bosses make their principal appeal, and they get their ideas largely from this source and from foreign language newspapers. Naturally such citizens acquire many distorted notions. They often follow the lead of smart talkers who pose as their special friends, but who are dishonest or incompetent, and who give the people costly government.

An efficient and economical administration of public affairs can only be secured when the mass of the voters can understand the issues as presented in American newspapers and English speaking assemblies.

There ought to be a movement all over the country to dignify the voting privilege, and exclude those who by reason of ignorance of the language are wholly unfit to exercise it. It may not be possible to take the voting privilege away from those who now have it, but at least new applicants for registration ought to be required to know the language of the country

in whose government they ask to take a share.—St. Johns News.

NORTHWEST SEVILLE

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Tynan transacted business in Alma Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. E. Loomis also C. Briggs was in Alma Thursday. Mrs. Lee Loomis has been on the sick list the past week with tonsillitis. Howard Kennedy threshed beans for T. Parker Wednesday. Jacob Stell who lives near Crawford was a caller at V. Dickinson's Tuesday. Manley Evans and wife also J. Dexter was in Alma Saturday. Lloyd Epler of Alma worked for Lee Loomis Monday. Donald Tynan and Otto Loomis was in Alma Monday on business.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ARCADE

I will be at the Ithaca National Bank on Thursdays—Dec. 8, 15, 22, 29 and Jan. 5, and at the Alma State Savings Bank on Saturdays—Dec. 10, 17, 24, 31, and Jan. 7, also Monday, Jan. 9, for the purpose of collecting taxes. Telephone: Alma, 21R5. 28-6w Roy S. Keefer, Treas.

Record Directory

FOR READY REFERENCE

Preserve This and Then You'll Know

President and Congress
President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, salary \$75,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$150,000 more for clerk hire and White House expenses—\$250,000 in all. (Subject to change). Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$12,000. President pro tem of senate, Albert B. Cummins, Iowa. Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett of Mass.; salary \$12,000. The 96 Senators and 435 Representatives of 67th congress receive \$7,500 salary each, with mileage extra at 20 cents a mile each way, each session, figured on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$3,500 a year for clerk hire. Ratio of representation, one member to each 111,817 population. Party Division in 67th Congress: House 301 Rep., 123 Dem., 1 Soc. Senate 59 Rep., 37 Dem. U. S. Senators—Chas. E. Townsend, Truman H. Newberry. Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Fordney.

The Cabinet
Arranged in order of presidential succession: Secy. State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y.; Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa.; War, W. W. Wood, Mass.; Army, Gen. Harry M. Daugherty, Ohio; Postmaster-Gen., Will H. Hays, Ind.; Secy. Navy, Edwin Denby, Mich.; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. Mex.; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James J. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$12,000.

The Supreme Court
Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$15,000. Associate Justices, salary \$14,500 each: Jos. McKenna, Calif. (Rep.); Oliver W. Holmes, Mass. (Rep.); Wm. B. Day, Ohio (Rep.); Willis VanDevanter, Wyo. (Rep.); Mahlon Pitney, N. J. (Rep.); James McReynolds, Tenn. (Dem.); Louis D. Brandeis, Mass. (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio (Dem.).

Michigan Government
Governor, Alex. J. Groesbeck, salary, \$5,000; Lieut. Gov., Thomas Reed, salary, \$4,000; Secretary of State, Charles J. Deland, salary, \$2,000.00; State Treas., Frank E. Gorman, salary, \$2,000.00; Auditor Gen., Oran H. Fuller, salary, \$2,000.00; Attorney Gen., Martin Wiley, salary \$2,000.00; Supt. of Public Instruction, Thomas E. Johnson, salary, \$2,000.00; State Highway Com., Frank F. Rogers, salary \$750.00; Senator of District, Aaron Aronson, salary \$500.00; Representative of District, David G. Locke, salary, \$800.00; Supreme Court Judges, salary \$7,000.00; Joseph B. Moore, Joseph H. Moore, Howard Weist, Grant Follows, John W. Stone, Geo. M. Clark, John E. Bird, Nelson Sharp.

County Officers
Circuit Judge, Edward J. Molnet, salary \$3,500.00; Judge of Probate, James G. Kress, salary, \$2,500.00; Sheriff, A. T. Wilfert, salary, fees; Clerk, Bernice Case, salary, \$1,500; Treas., Sidney Evey, salary, \$1,500; Prot. Atty., Romaine Clark, salary, \$2,000; Register of Deeds, Chas. Heister, salary, fees; School Com., Howard Potter, salary, \$1,000; Circuit Court Com., Archie McCall, Wm. A. Bahke, fees; Drain Com., Eva Laycock, salary \$1,500; Coroners, W. K. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees.

City Government
Mayor, Chas. R. Murphy, salary, \$300.00; City Commissioners, John C. Chick, Floyd Glass, A. J. Archer, Philip Greaser, salary, \$200.00; City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary \$600.00; City Clerk, Francis C. Hayward, salary \$200.00; City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary, \$180.00; City Attorney, Wm. A. Bahke, salary, \$1200.00; Health Officer, Dr. John N. Day, salary, \$1500.00; Chief of Police, James R. Campbell, salary \$1750.00; Supervisors, 1st ward, Jesse E. Fuller, 2nd ward, Nicholas E. Sand, 3rd ward, Albert P. Cook, 4th ward, Jacob D. Helman, salary, \$3.00 per day on actual time.

The Strand

THURSDAY and FRIDAY

DOUGLAS McLEAN

—in—

"CHICKENS"

Travelog Kinograms

SATURDAY

DOROTHY GISH

—in—

"The Ghost in the Garret"

Christie Comedy

SUNDAY and MONDAY

CHARLES RAY

—in—

"The Midnight Bell"

—ALSO—

HAROLD LLOYD

—in—

"Among Those Present"

A three-reel special comedy that will make you ache with laughing.

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY

MILTON SILLS

—in—

"THE FAITH HEALER"

Travelog Kinograms

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Flour, sack		3 bars for	
3 pkgs. Macaroni	25c	4 large rolls Toilet	25c
for		Paper for	
Sardines, fine can	18c	Sure Pop quality	10c
Norwegian Smoked		Pop Corn, per lb	
Honey, dark or light	30c	Peaberry Coffee	27c
new, per lb		per pound	
Cluster Raisins, on	35c	Teapot Tea, best for	50c
the stem, per lb		the price, per lb	
Larabee's Best Flour, quality	\$1.15	Ralston's Breakfast Food per	25c
goods, per		package, 20c	
sack		and	
Shell Macaroni	12½c	Prunes, Santa Clara, new goods	20c
fancy, per lb		per lb 15c	
		and	
Brazil Nuts, per lb	23c		
Seeded Raisins, pkg.	22c		

Wanted—Black Walnuts, Hickory Nuts, Apples, Eggs

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